

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HONG K 00255 080957Z

13  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
----- 089542

R 080817Z JAN 75  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHCC 3426  
INFO USLO PEKING

S E C R E T HONG KONG 255

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CH US  
SUBJ: PACE OF SINO-US RELATIONS: PRESS PROBLEMS

REF: A. 1974 HONG KONG 13927; B. 1974 PEKING 2305;  
C. HONG KONG 0254; D. 1974 HONG KONG 13929

1. THE PURPOSE OF THISMESSAGE IS TO WARN OF POSSIBLE PRESS PROBLEMS. REF A REPORTED OUR FEELING THAT THEPRC HAD INITIATED A WELL ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN, FOR UNCLEAR REASONS, DESIGNED TO INDICATE PUBILCLY, BUT INDIRECTLY, SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PACE OF U.S. - PRC RELATIONS. PRIME CONDUIT FOR THIS LINE HAS BEEN SAM JAFFEE OF THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS WHO HAS ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FROM CHINA. HE IS BUSILY BUILDING ON HIS INTERVIEWS IN CHINA (REF B) IN HIS TALKS WITH OTHER AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. JAFFE SPEAKS TO THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB JANUARY 9.

2. JAFFE HAS DECLINED CONTACT WITH US BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF HIS COMMENTS INCLUDE MALICIOUS STUFF AIMED AT USLO ALONG LINES OF BRADSHER STAR-NEWS STORY CARRIED EA PRESS REVIEW JANUARY 2 AND SOME VAGUE ALLEGAIONS THAT CHINESE ARE NEGATIVE ON SECRETARY KISSINGER PERSONALLY. UNFORTUNATELY , ALL THIS IS LIKELY TO PLAY INTO THE ALREADY QUERULOUS MOOD WE HAVE OBSERVED RECENTLY AMONG U.S. JOURNALISTS HERE. THEY HAVE HAD IT STUBBORNLY IN THEIR HEADS SINCE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PEKING LAST MONTH THAT SINO-U.S. RELATIONS ARE SOURED AND WE HAVE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS IN POINTING OUT TO THEM THAT THIS SUPPOSITION,

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ALSO WIDELY HELD AND ESPOUSED BY OTHER OBSERVERS HERE, IS BASED

ON THEIR OWN CONJECTURES AND THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING OF REAL SUBSTANCE TO GO ON. IN FACT, WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR TENDENCY TO PERSONALIZE THEIR ATTACKS ON USLO AND THE SECRETARY STEMS FROM FRUSTRATION AT BEING UNABLE TO BACK UP THEIR THEORIES.

3. WE WILL OF COURSE KEEP TRYING AND WILL BE MAKING JUDICIOUS USE OF REPORTS WE HAVE FROM THE BRITISH AND NOW THE CANDIAN (REF C) TO SHOW SELECTED JOURNALISTS THAT RESONSIBLE CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE NOT NECESARILY DISCOUNCERTED NOR IMPATIENT WITH DEVELOPMENTS. WE COULDALSO POINT TO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LINES (REF D.). ANY FURTHER AMMUNITION THE DEPARTMENT CANPROVIDE WILL BE HELPFUL SINCE THIS MOOD IS NOT LIKELY TO PASS QUICKLY. IN PARTICULAR IF WE COULD GET SOME FIX ON PROBABLE PRC MOTIVATIONS WE COULD PERHAPS WORK ON THIS PROBLEM MORE PRODUCTIVELY, HOWEVER, ONE FACTOR WE SHOULD REMEMBER IS THAT THE CHINESE PUT JAFFEE UP TO HIS BASIC STORY. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT THE CHINESE HAD, OR HAVE, IN MIND. BUT SHOULD THEY PERSIST IN THIS TWO TRACK APPROACH WE PROBABLY OUGHT TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE RUN A RISK OF DISCREDITING OURSELVES BY TRYING TO REFUTE THE PRC PUBLIC LINE.  
CROSS

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